



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney, Stephen J. Murphy  
Eastern District of Michigan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006  
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

AG  
(202) 514-2008  
TDD (202) 514-1888

**MICHIGAN TEAM MEETS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**ALBERTO R. GONZALES, ENHANCES STRATEGIES TO COMBAT**  
**GANG VIOLENCE AND GUN CRIMES**

***18 local representatives from the Eastern District of Michigan attend conference***

Detroit, Michigan – Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales this week brought together over 1,300 federal, state and local prosecutors, law enforcement officials, community leaders and other members of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) teams from across the nation to discuss efforts to reduce and prosecute gun crime. Eighteen local representatives from Michigan participated in the fourth PSN national conference in Denver, including members of the Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Northwest District Weed and Seed, Michigan Department of Corrections as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office, sharing successful strategies for combating gun crime and gang violence. The Bush Administration has devoted more than \$1.6 billion to PSN since 2001, including nearly \$40 million that will be distributed to local task forces this year.

"Project Safe Neighborhoods is a street-level partnership that helps local leaders solve local problems," said Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. "Through this program, law enforcement at every level supports innovative strategies to combat gun crime and gang violence in communities across America."

The conference centers on PSN's many successes in fighting gun crime since the initiative was announced by President Bush in 2001, and on using PSN's partnerships and successful strategies to combat the problem of gang violence.

"Our partners at the state and local level will be crucial to our anti-gang strategy for the Eastern District of Michigan. We will pursue a coordinated, carefully planned strategy that will root out gang activity, particularly armed organizations involved in drug trafficking. First we will identify them, then target our local, state and federal resources to dismantle them and put their members in prison," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. "This program also includes a strong prevention component, in that it includes crucial community building resources as well, such as funds to help ex-offenders to stay out of trouble, develop skills, and find jobs."

Since combating gang-violence can only be done by working in partnership with state and local law enforcement and community organizations, the Attorney General

directed each U.S. Attorney to convene a Gang Prevention Summit in his or her district designed to explore additional opportunities in the area of gang prevention. These summits are to be held in the next eight months and will bring together law enforcement and community leaders to discuss best practices, identify gaps in services, and create a prevention plan to target at-risk youth within their individual communities.

The Attorney General announced that the Department of Justice released nearly \$30 million in grant assistance to support state and local anti-gang efforts of PSN task forces across the country. In the Eastern District of Michigan, \$600,000 has been allocated to the Detroit Police Department, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, the Michigan State Police, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and several community service organizations to support enforcement and prevention efforts to combat violent gangs under PSN. In addition, the Department will award \$10 million across the country to support PSN efforts to fight gun crime that is not necessarily gang-related.

These efforts will complement additional Department programs, such as the Attorney General's Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative, which has allocated a total of \$15 million to fund comprehensive prevention, enforcement and re-entry efforts in six sites: Los Angeles, Tampa, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Milwaukee, and the "222 Corridor," between Easton and Lancaster in Pennsylvania.

PSN conference training topics range from enforcement strategies to remove violent gang members and gun criminals from the streets, to school violence prevention programs, and building community partnerships. The strength of PSN continues to be its strategic mix of federal, state and local agencies and community leaders focused on law enforcement and crime prevention. Prosecutors pursue the strongest possible punishment for those who violate firearms statutes, while community partners aggressively educate their constituents about consequence of illegal gun violence and gang activity through services and resources provided by PSN.

For more information, please visit the PSN website at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).